GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:466
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000
IGN MINISTER VISIT TO CHINA
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY;SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been rapid improvement in the relations with China in recent days;

(b) if so, whether he visited Beijing recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether both the countries have expressed their desire to cooperate in many important areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) : External Affairs Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh visited China in June 1999.During the visit, the two sides reached important conclusions on furthering the CBM process, initiating a security dialogue, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and on further enhancing our cultural, economic and functional co-operation. More recently, the President paid a state-visit to china on May 28 - June 3, 2000 against the backdrop of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. The two sides agreed to further enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse fields and to promote greater people to people contacts.

Our relations are improving and developing in diverse fields, with exchanges, inter alia, at the level of government, parliamentarians, scholars and others. From the Indian side, the Minister of Commerce & Industry and Minister of Information Technology visited China in February and July, 2000 respectively. From the Chinese side, Dai Bingguo, Minister in the International Department of Central Committee of Communist Party of China and Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan visited India in March and July 2000 respectively.Both sides have agreed to promote friendly, cooperative, good neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China on the basis of Panchsheel.